

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, at line 19, "protrusion" has been changed to --projection-- to be consistent with the terms used in the remainder of the claim.

In claim 37, at line 11, "protrusion" has been changed to --projection-- to be consistent with the terms used in the remainder of the claim.

In claim 48, at line 20, "protrusion" has been changed to --projection-- to be consistent with the terms used in the remainder of the claim.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 1 and 48, the prior art does not disclose a heat exchanging apparatus having the claimed structure including a base device of the collecting and/or distributing device including a support level with openings for the throughflow devices, a predefined plane situated above the support level so as to protrude more inward with respect to the collecting and/or distributing device, and at least one projection which protrudes inward from the predefined plane, at least one section of the separating device being in at least indirect

contact with at least one side face of the projection and with at least one section of the plane of the base device, the at least one projection being formed by a vertical wall projecting upward from the predefined plane, an inclined wall projecting upward at an angle from the support level, and a horizontal wall connecting the vertical and inclined walls.

With respect to claim 7, the prior art does not disclose a heat exchanging apparatus having the claimed structure including the base device of the collecting and/or distributing device having a plurality of inwardly protruding projection which protrude inward from the predefined plane of the base device, at least one section of the separating device being in at least indirect contact with at least one side face of the projection and with at least one section of the plane of the base device, the plurality of projections being arranged so as to be alternately laterally offset relative to one another with respect to a transverse direction of the collecting and/or distributing device.

With respect to claim 37, the prior art does not disclose a method for producing a heat exchanging apparatus having the claimed steps including producing a base device including a support level with openings a predefined plane situated above the support level. And at least one projection which protrudes upward from the predefined plate arranging a separating device in at least indirect contact with the base device and the at least one side face, the at least one projection being formed by a vertical wall projecting upward from the

predefined plane, an inclined wall projecting upward at an angle from the support level, and a horizontal wall connecting the vertical and inclined walls.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Teresa J. Walberg whose telephone number is 571-272-4790. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Teresa J. Walberg/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3744

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